

NATURAL NEWS



The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
November 6, 1998

A special thanks to all who helped get *The Art of the Motorcycle* up and running

The Art of the Motorcycle opens to the public with great fanfare on Saturday, November 7. Many dedicated staff and volunteers traveled the "long hard road" to bring this challenging project to completion.

Thanks are due as always to the creative energy and endless zeal of **Pat Kremer** and the entire Public Relations staff, who followed their "Motorcycle Mama" into uncharted territory with great success. Thanks, too, to the Volunteer and Education Departments – especially **Patti Stratton, Stephen Bell, Beth Crownover, Beth Adams, Mary Ann Bloom, and Paula Perkins** – who tapped into the enthusiasm of the motorcycling community and crafted an exciting series of programs and events. Gratitude also goes to **Diane White, Ray Bondoc, John Foos, Ron Cundiff**, and everyone in the Public and Visitor Service Departments, who have geared up for what we know will be a blockbuster show.

And finally, endless thanks go to The Field Museum's extraordinary Exhibit Design and Production Team, who have once again delivered unparalleled creativity on demand, on time, and on a budget. **Peter Stevenson, David Quednau, Robert Weiglein, Trigg Waller, and Eric Manabat** created a superb exhibition which rivals the original in New York; **Ray Leo and Eric Frazer** battled repeated technical nightmares to produce and install the show; **Amy Costello** scheduled and budgeted the whole thing without once losing track; **Martina Hough** slogged through the thankless administrative obstacles; and, once again, the unsung "soldiers" of the exhibit department pulled the whole project together: **John Petreikis, Lance Kirsch, Peter DeReimer, Steve Furnett, Rick Hope, Abe Bloom, Bruce Heimbuch, George Chavez, Steve Lalik, Steve Villano, Beth Tanner, and Joseph Hu** are craftsmen without equal who deserve the recognition of the entire Museum.

Thanks again to everyone for an outstanding exhibition.

Submitted by **David Foster**

FIELD NOTES

Week of November 9

Public Events/Special Events

Millennium Project

- Monday through Saturday
8 a.m. – midnight, LH2

Primitive Art Society

- Monday 7:30 p.m., MW Hall

Wade Davis Lecture

- Tuesday 4 p.m., MW Hall

Book Reading

- Wednesday 11 a.m., MW Hall

Native American Issues Panel Disc.

- Thursday 4 p.m., MW Hall

Music Theater Workshop

- Friday 5 p.m., Clrm A

Dinosaurs and More

- Saturday 11 a.m., Clrm C

Members Viewing of Motorcycles

- Sunday 5:30 p.m.

Staff/Volunteer Events

No Tuesday Seminar this week

- Next seminar November 17

New FC Members

- Wednesday 5:30 p.m., SFH

Staff Movie Night – "The Relic"

- Wednesday 5 p.m., MW Hall

Aerobics Class

- Tuesday and Thursday 5 p.m.
Outside Philippines Exhibit

Museum Highlights Tours

- Monday and Thursday 9 a.m., SFH

NOTICE TO ALL EMPLOYEES

You will be receiving a United Way pledge form with your November 6 paycheck. If you would like to contribute to the 1998 United Way Campaign, please fill out the form legibly and completely and return it to **Marla Camp** in Museum Affairs.

ALL PLEDGE FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20.

If you choose the payroll deduction option, you will see it reflected in your December 4 paycheck. If you choose to pay by check, please be sure to include it with your pledge form.

Thank you very much for your support of this worthwhile cause.

If you have any questions, please call Marla at ext. 420.

News from Sponsored Programs

For those of you preparing your next grant application, you can now download the FM Routing Form and Cost Sharing Form from the Sponsored Programs Intranet pages. From the Intranet, select Departments/ Sponsored Programs/ Routing Procedures. Both the routing form and cost sharing form are available as PDF files from this page. You will need to have Adobe Acrobat or Exchange on your computer in order to view/print PDF files (check <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html> for updates on Adobe software). Please call (ext. 877) or e-mail (dbakken@fmnh.org) with any questions or comments.

Submitted by **Deborah A. Bakken**

Thanks from the Education Department

The Education Department would like to thank the many departments, individuals and volunteers who have helped to make our educational programming so successful. Comments from visitors and staff indicated that Celebración '98 was well received, and visitors especially enjoyed the musical performances. Thanks are extended to the staff in Housekeeping, Visitor Services, the Museum Store, Maintenance, Photography, Audio Visual, Security, Special Events, Exhibits and Engineering. Special thanks are extended to **Sheldon Moy** and **Juan G. Hernandez** who helped to repair the shipping crates for the musical performers from Guatemala. **Amanda Reeves**, Exhibits, deserves many thanks for the event program. Thanks also to the committee who worked so hard to organize and implement the festival – **Maria Arias, Gretchen Baker, Rudiger Bieler, Joe Byrnes, Bob Cantu, Mara Cosillo Starr, Mary Johnson, Nicole Royal, Jay Savage, Sue Stott, Sophie Twichell, Kristie Webber** and **Ariel Zapata**. Thanks also for the time and talent of the scientists who generously shared their research – **Bill Burger, Mike Dillon, Diane Draeger, Jonathan Haas, Nancy Hensold, Janice Klein, and Phil Parrillo**.

The Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 31 was also a success due the cooperation and support of many departments and volunteers. Thanks to wonderful staff members in Housekeeping, Audio Visual, Special Events, Visitor Services, Security, Photography and Engineering. Kudos are extended to Redmoon Theater Company for their creative performance and to **Louise Frank**, Harvest Festival Program Developer. Special assistance from **Diane White** and **Veatrice Lampkins** in Public Services assured that the theater performance on the North Steps ran smoothly. **Lisa Morema**, Exhibits, did a great job designing the program for the day's events.

Submitted by **Sue Stott**

The Art of the Motorcycle
Press Preview
Thursday, November 5, 1998
Opening remarks by John McCarter

I am delighted to welcome you to the unveiling of a wonderful exhibit and a milestone event for everyone in The Field Museum community. The Art of the Motorcycle demonstrates to us all the power of a bold, innovative exhibition to open our eyes afresh to a world we often take for granted. This captivating exhibition of 72 classic motorcycles, from the steam-powered curiosities of the mid-19th century to the futuristic creations of today, invites us along on a journey through the social and technological history of our century. On the way it treats us to a view of some of the most extraordinary creations of our time, as well as opening a window on the amazing diversity of individuals and groups who have used the motorcycle to forge their identities and create dynamic new communities. I'm sure you will be as entranced as I was as you explore the installation.

This remarkable exhibition would not have come to life at all were it not for the creative vision of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Brainchild of Guggenheim Director Thomas Krens, The Art of the Motorcycle caught the museum world by surprise, challenging the expectations of visitors of every stripe with an idea fresh, exciting and new. The phenomenal success of the exhibition during its run in New York City this past summer, as it captured the imagination of the public and museum professionals alike, demonstrates that museums must maintain a sense of creative play and exploration to fulfill our missions.

This undertaking was subject to curatorial practices and standards as rigorous as any governing the selection of Chinese bronzes or Old Master drawings. Guggenheim curators Charles Falco and Ultan Guilfoyle combed the world in pursuit of machines, each of which represents the pinnacle of achievement in its time and place - machines which, in one way or another, through one innovation or another propelled this characteristic icon of our culture on a course of evolution through our century. Nothing here is random, no selection was left to whimsy or chance. The result of their efforts, reflected in the incredible variety of styles, concepts and forms of these motorcycles, demonstrates undeniably that innovation and creativity may be wedded to craft of the highest order to wrest beauty even from the utilitarian machine. This is indeed, the art of the motorcycle.

Many have said, "You are a museum of natural history and anthropology and why motorcycles at The Field Museum?" To them we offer an invitation: an invitation to look around them at the amazing world present within these walls. The exhibit halls of The Field Museum are filled to bursting with immeasurable treasures from the many cultures of our world: from the vases and grinding stones of Ancient Egypt, to the masks and drums of Africa, to the painstakingly carved sacred books of Tibet, to the earthen homes of the Native American. We are dinosaur fossils and animals of Africa and Asia but also of the complex interplay between culture and our natural environment. Now, with this exhibition, we invite you to explore, as we did, a characteristic product of our contemporary culture - our 20th century, urban, industrial culture, in which communities evolve, change and grow through a heady, wonderful,

challenging, always surprising alchemy here at the threshold of a new century. Indeed, we view the motorcycle as nothing less than a potent agent of social change, capable of precipitating new communities and bringing people together in new and unexpected ways. And so, The Art of the Motorcycle fits seamlessly with the mission we have already established with such innovative undertakings as our Living Together exhibition, Swedish Folk Art currently on the floor beneath us, The Art of Haitian Voodoo and Heaven on Earth - icons from the Russian, Greek and Serbian Orthodox that were here last year. These initiatives, touching contemporary culture and helping us to bridge the gulfs that so often exist between communities in our complex, rapidly changing world, embody the vision and excitement driving The Field Museum into the 21st century.

Even beyond our stated mission in the contemporary community, however, The Art of the Motorcycle represents something more: it represents one of the first of a series of strategic alliances we have forged with our fellow institutions in the worlds of science, education and the arts. In a spirit of creative give-and-take, in an exchange of ideas, resources and energies, The Field Museum has entered into a relationship with the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum so that together we may explore the horizons which open out before us. Just as we have joined the international tour which will present The Art of the Motorcycle to rapt audiences on three continents, so The Field Museum stands ready to make the incomparable riches of our own collections available to brother and sister museums around the world. Already our reach is long - Field Museum curators, scientists and researchers are presently at work on nearly every continent on the globe, pursuing a dizzying range of disciplines and endeavors. By formalizing our relationships with international institutions, by crafting programs of traveling exhibitions and the sharing of collections, we may truly enter the new millennium as members of the global community of museums.

In closing, let me acknowledge the contribution and commitment of those individuals from The Field Museum staff who have brought this challenging exhibition project to fruition. Exhibition Coordinator David Foster, Exhibit Developer Peter Stevenson, Exhibit Designers Robert Weiglein and David Quednau and Production Supervisor Eric Frazer - and all of their colleagues in the Exhibits Department - have demonstrated once again the extraordinary wealth of skills and talents which combine to make each one of our exhibitions the unique product of creative collaboration.

And finally, our deepest gratitude and thanks for the generous support of a few special people who have joined The Field Museum family as sponsors of this ambitious undertaking. In particular, let me thank Sam Zell and Zell's Angels for their support as the major underwriters of the exhibition. The Art of the Motorcycle, we feel, represents the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship between Mr. Zell and The Field Museum. Thanks are due as well to the help and support of Yamaha, Suzuki, Kawasaki, Honda and Discover Today's Motorcycling. The participation and commitment of colleagues like these ensures the ongoing success of our mission at The Field Museum, and encourages us to broaden our vision as we look to future endeavors. I thank them all on behalf of the entire Museum.

I am now very pleased to introduce Burt Richmond, Tour Meister, Lotus Tours and a member of Zell's Angels to represent Sam Zell.

Margaret Newcome wakes up.
She counts her money. She has a
choice: Pay the rent, or feed her
kids. She decides to _____

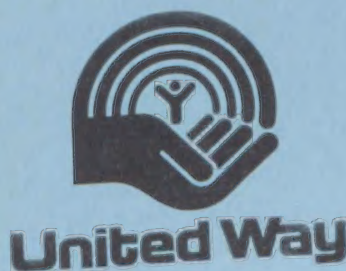
You can write a happy ending.

**Everyone is invited to the
1998 United Way Campaign Kick-off event!**

Come learn more about United Way and how you can
help improve lives within your community.

**Tuesday, November 3rd at 2:00 p.m.
Montgomery Ward Hall**

Refreshments will be provided.



Call Marla Camp, ext. 420 for more information.

1998

November

1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Adult Class - 8am to 5pm - Clrm A & LH 2	1 Teach Prog - Happiness Club - 3pm to 7pm - Clrm C Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A IL Mycological Assoc - 6pm to 10pm - LH 2 Chgo Hang Gliding Org - 7pm to 11pm - Mont. Ward Hall	2 C. Sulkin - "The 2 of Us" - 8am to 12n - Clrm A United Way Kick-off - 2pm to 3pm - Mont. Ward Hall Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A & B and LH 2	3 Univ of Chicago / Com. on Evol. Biology - 1pm to 3pm - LH 2 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A & B and LH 2	4 Honeytree School - 9am to 12 (noon) - Classroom A Museology - 12:30pm to 4pm - Clrm B Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A & B and LH 2 Columbia College Teacher Wksp - 4:30pm to 9pm - Clrm C	5 Rotary Foundation - 8am to 12n - Mont. Ward Hall Music Theater Wksp - 5pm to 9pm - LH 2	6 Adult Class - 8am to 4pm - LH 2 PIP Alumni - 12 (noon) to 3pm - Classroom A GROUP OVERNIGHT - 5:45pm to next day - entire Museum
Millennium Project - 8am to 12 midnight - LH 2	8 Millennium Project - 8am to 12 midnight - LH 2 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A Primitive Art Society - 7:30pm to 10pm - Mont. Ward Hall	9 Millennium Project - 8am to 12 midnight - LH 2 C.Sulkin-8am to 12n - Clrm A Teach Prog - Happiness Club - 3pm to 7pm - Clrm C Wade Davis Lecture - 4pm to 9pm - Mont. Ward Hall Col College Cls-6to10pm - Cl A	10 Millennium Project - 8am to 12 midnight - LH 2 Book Reading - 11am to 3pm - Mont. Ward Hall Univ of Chicago / Com. on Evol. Biology - 1pm to 3pm - Clrm C Staff Movie Night - 4:30pm to 9pm - Mont. Ward Hall	11 Millennium Project - 8am to 12 midnight - LH 2 Museology - 12:30pm to 4pm - Clrm B Native Amer. Issues Panel Disc - 4pm to 9pm - Mont. Ward H Columbia College Teacher Wksp - 4:30pm to 9pm - Clrm C	12 Millennium Project - 8am to 12 midnight - LH 2 Adult Class - 12n to midnight - Mont. Ward Hall & LH 2 Music Theater Wksp - 5pm to 9pm - Clrm A	13 Millennium Project - 8am to 12 midnight - LH 2 Adult Class - 8am to 6pm - Mont. Ward Hall Adult Class - 9am to 2:30pm - Clrms A & B Teacher Prog - 10am to 12n - Clrm C
Adult Class - 9am to 2:30pm - Clrms A & B Dinosaurs and More - 11am to 3pm - Clrm C	15 Finance Dept. - 8:30am to 4:30pm - Clrm C Dinosaurs and More - 10am to 1pm - Clrm A, LH 1 & 2 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A Chgo Mountaineering Club - 6pm to 10pm - Mont. Ward Hall	16 C. Sulkin - "The 2 of Us" - 8am to 12n - Clrm A Finance Dept. - 8:30am to 3pm - Clrm C Teach Prog - Happiness Club - 3pm to 7pm - Clrm C Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A & B and LH 2	17 Finance Dept. - 8:30am to 4:30pm - Clrm C Univ of Chicago / Com. on Evol. Biology - 1pm to 3pm - LH 2 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A & B and LH 2	18 FinDept.-8:30am to 3pm - Cl C American Assoc of Colleges - 8:30am to 5pm - Cl A, LH 1 & 2 Museology-12:30 to 4pm - Clrm B Columbia College Teacher Wksp - 4:30pm to 9pm - Clrm C Adult Class - 5pm to 9pm - Clrms A & B and LH 2	19 Finance Dept. - 8:30am to 4:30pm - Clrm C American Assoc of Colleges - 8:30am to 5pm - Cl A, LH 1 & 2 GROUP OVERNIGHT - 5:45pm to next day - entire Museum	20 Adult Class - 8am to 4pm - LH 2
AFC - Family Class - 9:30am to 3pm - Clrm B	22 Finance Dept. - 8:30am to 4:30pm - Clrm C Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A	23 C.Sulkin-8am to 12n - Clrm A FinDept -8:30am to 3pm - Cl C Booking Egypt Program - 9am to 12n - Mont. Ward Hall Teach Prog - Happiness Club - 3pm to 7pm - Clrm C Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A & B and LH 2	24 Motorcycle Film Series - 10am to 5pm - Mont. Ward Hall Christian-11:30am to 1pm - LH2 Univ of Chicago / Com. on Evol. Biology - 1pm to 3pm - LH 2 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A & B and LH 2 ChgoHerpS-6to10pm-Mont Ward	25 Motorcycle Film Prog - 10am to 4pm - Mont. Ward Hall Museology - 12:30pm to 4pm - Clrm B Columbia College Teacher Wksp - 4:30pm to 9pm - Clrm B	26 Adult Class - 8am to 4pm - LH2 Motorcycle Film Series - 10am to 5pm - Mont. Ward Hall FAMILY OVERNIGHT - 5:45pm to next day - entire Museum	27 Adult Lecture - 8am to 5pm - Mont. Ward Hall Adult Class - 8am to 4pm - LH 2 PIP (DCFS) - 8am to 2pm - Clrm A, B, & C
29 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A	30					

Staff Movie Night **Featuring "The Relic"**

When: Wednesday, November 11th

Where: Montgomery Ward Hall

Time: Food served at 5:00 p.m.
Movie begins at 6:00p.m.

-Free Food!!!!!!!!!!

-Soda-\$1.00

-Beer & Wine-\$2.00

"The Relic" is directed by Peter Hyams and stars Penelope Ann Miller, Tom Sizemore, Linda Hunt, & James Whitmore and was filmed here at The Field in 1995.



THE ART OF THE MOTORCYCLE INFORMATION

Excitement about *The Art of the Motorcycle* is building to a roar and people are calling the Museum at a fantastic rate! When you receive calls pertaining to other departments and activities surrounding the exhibit, please refer to the following information.

For advance individual tickets	(888) 474-7900
For groups of 15 or more	(312) 322-9944 (Laurie at x843)
For public programs	(312) 322-8854
Hotel/travel packages	(800) 227-1908
Motorcycle Ride information	(888) 609-9300

Advance individual tickets are being handled by an outside contractor and are available from 9:00am – 9:00pm, 7 days a week.

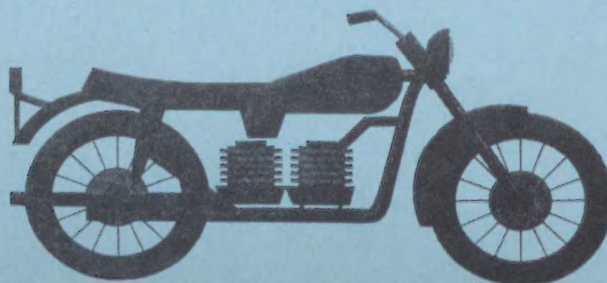
Laurie Sanders in Group Sales is handling groups of 15 or more.

Education is planning some terrific public programs.

Public Relations and Group Sales have negotiated convenient hotel and travel packages. Let your friends know!

Public Relations is planning a *Once in a Lifetime Motorcycle Ride* as a spectacular kick-off to the exhibit opening on November 7!

If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to call Laurie Sanders in Group Sales at extension 843.



All museum staff – Please join us in a
BENEFIT FOR STEVE McCARROLL

Monday, November 16
3:30 – 6:00
Stanley Field Hall

We hope to help with his overwhelming medical expenses.

At 3:30 we'll have **GREAT FOOD*** on sale featuring Steve's recipes.

At 4:30 we'll have **BEER, WINE, and MARGARITAS** (Steve's favorite).

At 4:45 Mark Alvey will host a live **AUCTION** of your exciting donated items.

Bring your coolest stuff and come prepared to buy your fellow staff members' coolest stuff.

Please bring your items to Marlene's office (rm. 3229) or Elaine's office (rm. 3004A) in the Geology Department.

What we're looking for:

natural history artifacts
art of crafts of any kind
books – rare, old...
fossil casts
lessons (tennis, painting, violin...)
services or performances, on-the-spot or later (story-telling, belly-dancing,
silversmithing, music...)
whatever else you can think of

*To donate food, call Elaine, x338, for Steve's recipes, or bring one of your own favorites.

Dear Colleagues,

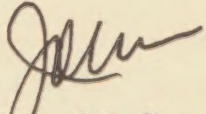
I would like to thank those of you who attended this Tuesday's Kick-Off Event for the 1998 United Way Campaign. Once again, we are off to a good start, and this year's Employee Campaign Coordinator, Marla Camp, has earmarked an important goal for us to achieve. I feel compelled, as I hope you do, to take part in this Campaign because the needs of others within our community are so great.

In fact, over 2.5 million people living in the greater metropolitan Chicago area will need the valuable assistance the United Way/Crusade of Mercy Campaign provides. Their needs are staggering, and their personal resources are so limited. Our committed generosity will help meet their basic needs for food, clothing, shelter, health care and an opportunity to learn.

This year, our goal is ambitious but realistic. With your participation, we can all collectively shoulder an important goal that can, and does, make an important difference in the lives of so many.

The United Way Campaign builds teamwork between all departments and positively promotes The Field Museum. During the weeks ahead, we can use this teamwork show that caring still counts and ensure our Campaign's success.

Sincerely,



John McCarter

An Evening with Siskel:

Vroom on Film



Gene Siskel, Film Critic

Tickets are available for Staff and Volunteers. To receive a free ticket and one for a friend, call ext. 854. Tickets are available on a first come first served basis.

**Friday, November 13
6:30 p.m.**

The Field Museum is honored to present award-winning film columnist Gene Siskel to comment on the motorcycle's role in movies. Using images from a series of films, Mr. Siskel, who reviews movies for The Chicago Tribune, TV Guide Magazine, "CBS This Morning," and television's leading film review program, "Siskel and Ebert," will examine how the motorcycle has been used in movies over the years. This special evening, which includes a cocktail reception, is the first in a series of films, videos, and presentations offered by the Museum to demonstrate how the motorcycle has been influenced by Hollywood and registered as an icon in popular culture.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Sease conducts Conservation Assessment Program surveys

Cap Sease (Conservation) recently conducted two Conservation Assessment Program surveys, one for the Mastodon State Historic Site in Imperial, Missouri and the other for the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City, Iowa. The CAP survey grants are funded by the National Museum Services Board and are administered by Heritage Preservation in Washington. Funding enables smaller institutions to undertake a general conservation survey that broadly looks at the institution's policies, practices and conditions that affect the care and preservation of their collections. The surveys are conducted by a conservator and an architect working in tandem to assess not only the collections but the facilities and physical plan as well. The goal of the assessment survey is to enable institutions to develop an overall collections and building care program and to establish conservation as an integral part of the institution's mission. In November, Cap will be conducting another CAP survey at the Circus Hall of Fame in Peru, Indiana.

Simpson reviews *Lost World* on Fox-32

Tying in with the network premiere of *The Lost World* (the *Jurassic Park* sequel) that aired earlier in the evening, the November 1 edition of Fox-32's 9 o'clock news featured an interview with **Bill Simpson** (Geology) to get his take on the accuracy of the movie from a paleo perspective. Bill praised the overall depiction of the *T. rex* in the film, although he suggested that the real thing wasn't as fast as the one in the movie. He also declared that we don't know how *T. rex* sounded – although he noted that we can infer from the sounds made by other dinosaurs (working in a plug for the *Parasaurolophus* exhibit in *Life Over Time*). He also noted that the film's computer-generated stegosauruses were too big. As to the original *Jurassic Park*, Bill observed that the raptors, likewise, were too big (and were composites of several animals), and that the swarming behavior of *Compsognathus* was “made up.” Anchor Nancy Pender ended the piece with a plug for the Sue prep lab and *Life Over Time*.

*

*

*

As a follow-up to last week's item on Brazilian Press coverage of AquaRAP, we should mention that **Phil Willink** (Zoology/ECP) and **Robin Foster** (Botany/ECP) were among the international team that participated in the Pantanal AquaRAP expedition. The item's focus on the Brazilian publications distracted the author from a full exploration of the background on the expedition. As their colleagues have since pointed out, Phil and Robin were very important participants in the RAP, just as they are instrumental to The Field Museum's conservation efforts.

T-Rex IMAX movie premiere a success: thanks to all who helped!

Thanks to all of you who helped make the premiere of *T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous* a success. A special thanks to **Peter Laraba** who told the story of Sue and her importance to The Field Museum. Thanks to **Maria Burns**, **Cindy Andresen**, **Pat Kremer**, **Anita Halpern** and **Dennis Kinsik** for making the evening run so smoothly. We had over 450 people in attendance, including 135 children from CYCLE, and 80 children who participate in the Christopher Zorich Foundation. The presentation and movie were followed by a wonderful ice cream social donated by Baskin Robbins on Devon. It truly was a fun evening. Thanks again to all of the participants.

Submitted by **Stephanie Powell**

The Field Museum Presents

TAKING WING:

**Archaeopteryx
and the Evolution of Bird Flight**

**By Pat Shipman
Sunday, November 15
2:00 p.m.**

Acting as a scientific detective, Shipman traces the age-old human desire to soar above the earth. Are birds actually living dinosaurs? Where does the fossil record really lead? Did flight originate from the "ground up" or "trees down"? Shipman deftly unpacks the complex questions that have revolutionized paleontology, all the while holding out the Archaeopteryx as the symbol of the query behind it all. Archaeopteryx—an exquisitely preserved fossil with wings, feathers, reptilian jaws and tail—has been identified as the possible link between birds and dinosaurs and thus become the subject of heated debate. This lecture portrays the compelling account of how scientific thinking on the mysteries of flight developed to the present day by following the braided tales of the evolutionary record and the scientists who have so painstakingly pieced it together.



lecture and booksigning

Free with general Museum admission. For more information please call (312)322-8854

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Sease conducts Conservation Assessment Program surveys

Cap Sease (Conservation) recently conducted two Conservation Assessment Program surveys, one for the Mastodon State Historic Site in Imperial, Missouri and the other for the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City, Iowa. The CAP survey grants are funded by the National Museum Services Board and are administered by Heritage Preservation in Washington. Funding enables smaller institutions to undertake a general conservation survey that broadly looks at the institution's policies, practices and conditions that affect the care and preservation of their collections. The surveys are conducted by a conservator and an architect working in tandem to assess not only the collections but the facilities and physical plan as well. The goal of the assessment survey is to enable institutions to develop an overall collections and building care program and to establish conservation as an integral part of the institution's mission. In November, Cap will be conducting another CAP survey at the Circus Hall of Fame in Peru, Indiana.

Simpson reviews *Lost World* on Fox-32

Tying in with the network premiere of *The Lost World* (the *Jurassic Park* sequel) that aired earlier in the evening, the November 1 edition of Fox-32's 9 o'clock news featured an interview with **Bill Simpson** (Geology) to get his take on the accuracy of the movie from a paleo perspective. Bill praised the overall depiction of the *T. rex* in the film, although he suggested that the real thing wasn't as fast as the one in the movie. He also declared that we don't know how *T. rex* sounded — although he noted that we can infer from the sounds made by other dinosaurs (working in a plug for the *Parasaurolophus* exhibit in *Life Over Time*). He also noted that the film's computer-generated stegosauruses were too big. As to the original *Jurassic Park*, Bill observed that the raptors, likewise, were too big (and were composites of several animals), and that the swarming behavior of *Compsognathus* was "made up." Anchor Nancy Pender ended the piece with a plug for the Sue prep lab and *Life Over Time*.

*

*

*

As a follow-up to last week's item on Brazilian Press coverage of AquaRAP, we should mention that **Phil Willink** (Zoology/ECP) and **Robin Foster** (Botany/ECP) were among the international team that participated in the Pantanal AquaRAP expedition. The item's focus on the Brazilian publications distracted the author from a full exploration of the background on the expedition. As their colleagues have since pointed out, Phil and Robin were very important participants in the RAP, just as they are instrumental to The Field Museum's conservation efforts.

T-Rex IMAX movie premiere a success: thanks to all who helped!

Thanks to all of you who helped make the premiere of *T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous* a success. A special thanks to **Peter Laraba** who told the story of Sue and her importance to The Field Museum. Thanks to **Maria Burns, Cindy Andresen, Pat Kremer, Anita Halpern** and **Dennis Kinsik** for making the evening run so smoothly. We had over 450 people in attendance, including 135 children from CYCLE, and 80 children who participate in the Christopher Zorich Foundation. The presentation and movie were followed by a wonderful ice cream social donated by Baskin Robbins on Devon. It truly was a fun evening. Thanks again to all of the participants.

Submitted by **Stephanie Powell**

Tuesday at Noon Seminar Series continues

On Tuesday, November 3, **Bill Simpson**, chief preparator and collections manager of fossil vertebrates, presented a seminar entitled "SUE: Anatomy of a Dinosaur Project." Bill began with the history of the discovery and acquisition of the most complete specimen of *Tyrannosaurus rex* ever found. He pointed out the placement of the genus among the many known dinosaur lineages, and that these very large predators are now thought to have been less lumbering and heavy-set than once depicted. The careful work required to extract the bone material from its rocky matrix was illustrated by slides, and computer-generated imaging from early results of the CT-scans revealed features of the skull's interior. The project's progress and how the work has been divided between the lab in Orlando and the one here was also discussed. Finally, Bill mentioned plans for duplicating the bones and mounting the skeleton.

There is no seminar scheduled for next week; our next seminar will be held on November 17.

Submitted by **Bill Burger**

\$\$ FINANCE FORUM \$\$

This week's Finance Forum is going to be short and to the point. We are in the middle of budget negotiations and have no time to inform you of anything related to finance which may be of interest. Wait 'til next week (when we may say the same thing).

Reminder: In order to ensure that 1998 purchase order expenses hit our 1998 budget, please have all purchase orders in **Tom Geary's** office no later than Friday, November 27. Purchase orders with November dates on them will be charged to your 1998 budget (assuming of course that your budget is not overspent). Purchase orders received in December and after will hit the year in which title to the goods or service is received. If you have a question please call **Tom Geary** at ext. 278.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Earl Duncan	Engineering	15 years
Beverly Gilliam	Visitor Services	5 years
Lawrence Heaney	Zoology/Mammals	10 years
Gerard Kernizan	Housekeeping	20 years
Roslyn Taylor	Housekeeping	5 years
Susan VandenBosch	Institutional Advancement	20 years
Willard White	Institutional Advancement	10 years

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!